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The Mohammedan Missionary Problem, With a Chart

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"Father, the hour has come, glorify Thy Son."

IN these words are joined the highest motive and the most potent plea for missions to the Moslems. The awful sin and guilt of the Mohammedan world is that they give Christ's glory to another. Whatever place Jesus Christ may occupy in the Koran—and the portrait there given is a sad caricature, whatever favorable critics may say about Christ's honorable place among the Moslem prophets—it is nevertheless true that the large bulk of Mohammedans know extremely little and think still less of the Son of Mary. He has no place in their hearts or in their lives. All the prophets have not only been succeeded but also supplanted by Mohammed. He is at once the sealer and concealer of all former revelations.

Mohammed is called Light of God, Peace of the World, Glory of Ages, First of all Creatures, and other names of yet greater import. His apotheosis was completed by tradition. In the Koran he is human; in tradition he becomes sinless and almost divine. No Moslem prays *to* Mohammed, but every Moslem prays for his aid in endless repetition daily. He is the only powerful intercessor on the day of judgment. His name is never uttered or written without the addition of a prayer. *Ya Mohammed* is the open sesame to every door of difficulty, temporal or spiritual. One hears that name in the bazaar and in the street, in the mosque and from the minaret. Sailors sing it while raising their sails; hammals groan it to raise a burden; the beggar howls it to obtain alms; it is the Bedouin's cry when making an attack on a caravan; it hushes dusky babies to sleep as a cradle song; and it is the best name to swear by for an end of all dispute in a close bargain.

The exceeding honor given to Mohammed's name by his followers is only *one* indication of the place their prophet occupies in their system and holds in their hearts. From the fulness of the heart the mouth speaketh. Mohammed holds the keys of heaven and hell. No Moslem, however bad his character, will perish finally; no unbeliever, however good his life, can be saved except through Mohammed. One has only to question the Moslem masses or read a single volume of the traditions to prove these statements. In short, Christ's name and place and office and glory have been usurped by another. Islam in its final result, if not in its essence, is anti-Christ. An abomination of desolation standing now for thirteen centuries in the Holy Place; a scourge of God which fell on an unholy and idolatrous church: a temple to half-truths, built on blood, buttressed by civil law, and the shrine as well as the shelter for one hundred and seventy million people,—*such is Islam.*

To one who knows anything of the Eastern religion it is not surprising that there is an Eastern question. The finger of Providence is now pointing to an Eastern crisis on every side of the Mohammedan horizon. What does it mean? "*Father, the hour has come, glorify thy Son.*" The glory of the Son of Isaac pleads for the evangelization of the seed of Ishmael. Over against Carlyle's or anybody else's hero-worship we put the eternal truth of God in regard to His beloved Son. "It pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell,"—*not in Mohammed.*

622 A. D.

The Mohammedan

(This Chart was specially prepared for the Third Inte

	COUNTRY	MOSLEM POPULATION	LANGUAGE	GOVERNMENT	ISLAM ENTERED
Europe	Roumania, Bulgaria, etc.	1,187,452	Slavonic	Independent Kingdoms	1500 ?
	Greece	24,165	Turkish	Kingdom	1500 ?
	Turkey in Europe	2,000,000	Turkish	Turkish	1354
	Russia in Europe	2,600,000	Russian	Russian	1790
5,811,617					
Asia	Turkey in Asia	12,000,000	Turkish and Arabic	Turkish	634
	Arabia	10,000,000	Arabic	¼ Turkish ¾ Independ.	622
	Persia	7,560,600	Persian	Monarchy	800
	Russia in Asia	8,261,000	Russian	Russian	?
	Afghanistan	4,000,000	Pashtu	Absolute Monarchy	1000 ?
	Baluchistan	500,000	Baluchi	British Protection	1000 ?
	India	57,321,164	Hindustani	British	1000-1306
	China	20,000,000	Chinese	Chinese	742
	Java, Sumatra, Borneo, etc	15,000,000	Malay, etc.	Dutch and French	1400-1478 1800
134,642,764					
Africa	Egypt	6,000,000	Arabic	British Occupation	638
	Zanzibar	150,000	Swahell	Brit & Ger. Protection	1800 ?
	Morocco	5,000,000	Arabic	Sultanate	690
	Tripoli	1,000,000	Arabic	Turkish Province	647
	Tunis	1,500,000	Arabic	French	647
	Algiers	3,000,000	Arabic	French	647
	Region of Lake Tsad	9,100,000	Hamitic	Tribal	1700-1800
	Soudan	10,400,000	Hausa	Tribal Protected	1700
	Sokoto	14,000,000	Hausa	Tribal	1800
	Sahara, etc	10,000,000	Hamitic	Tribal	1800
60,150,000					
Total Moslem Population		200,604,381			

Explanation of Colors: Red — under Christian rule or protection.
Green — under Turkish rule.
White — under other governments.

n Missionary Problem — 1898 A. D.

rentional Convention of Student Volunteers, Cleveland, 1898)

MISSIONARY EFFORT	DATE	PROTESTANT AGENCIES	VISIBLE RESULTS
Indirect	1859	Meth. Episcopal N. and others	None among Moslems
None	—	— — —	— — —
Indirect but important	1830	A. B. C. F. M. Foreign Christian Mission	Bible translated. Literature. Colleges. Schools. Evang. Churches
None	—	B. & F. Bible Society	— — —
Indirect nt important	1818	A. B. C. F. M., C. M. S. Presb. Bd., etc.	Strategic points all occupied Bible trans. Literature, schools, and colleges. Churches. Beyrout Press.
Direct	1885	Keith Falconer Mission	Bible distribution. Medical work
	1890	The Arabian Mission, R. C. A.	Preaching. Four stations.
Indirect and direct	1811	C. M. S., Presb. Bd.	Bible translated. Schools. Converts Martyrs
None	—	Bible Societies	Bible translated
None	—	— — —	Bible translated
egun recently	—	C. M. S.	Math. Gospel translated
Direct and indirect	1810	C. M. S. Presb. Bd. and other Societies	Bible translated many stations Schools Controversy. Converts
Scarcely any	—	Only incidentally by various Societies	Bible translated
Direct	1862	Various Dutch Societies	More than eleven thousand converts in Java. All agencies freely at
	1858	Rhenish Miss. Society	work. Bible translated.
Partly direct d important	1854	U. P. Mission, C. M. S., North Africa Mission	Controversial literature. Schools Converts. Churches.
Direct	1875	Universities Mission	Three stations. Schools. Hospital and Dispensary.
Direct	1884	North Africa Mission, etc.	Medical Missions
Indirect	1889	" " "	Preaching and touring. Literature scattered
Direct	1885	" " "	Thirteen stations occupied. A number of converts
Direct	1884	" " "	
None	—	— — —	— — —
None			
None	—	— — —	— — —
None	—	— — —	— — —

The statistics of population are based on the Statesman's Year Book, 1897, and the Encyclopaedia of Missions.

"The Father loveth the Son and hath given all things into His hand,"—*not into the hands of Mohammed*. "God hath exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name," . . . . "far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this world but also in that which is to come;" that at the name of Jesus every Mohammedan "knee should bow," and every Arab "tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." These are some of the promises for the success of missions to Moslems. Have we ever claimed them for this purpose? And if we have in meagre measure claimed them, yet how far our faith has out measured our faithfulness.

There was a thousand fold more enthusiasm in the dark ages to wrest an empty sepulchre from the Saracens than there is in our day to bring them the knowledge of a living Saviour. There is no Peter the hermit, and no one girds for a new crusade. We are playing at Missions as far as Mohammedanism is concerned. For there are more mosques in Jerusalem than there are missionaries in all Arabia; and more millions of Moslems in China than the number of missionary societies that work for Moslems in the whole world! Where Christ was born Mohammed's name is called from minarets five times daily, but where Mohammed was born no Christian dares to enter.

America entertains perverts to Islam at a parliament of religions, while throughout vast regions of the Mohammedan world millions of Moslems have never so much as heard of the incarnation and the atonement of the Son of God the Saviour of the world The Holy Land is still in unholy hands, and all Christendom stood gazing while the sword of the Crescent was uplifted in Armenia and Crete, until the uttermost confines of the Moslem world rejoiced at her apathy and impotence With the glorious motto, **"the evangelization of the world in this generation,"** are we to leave out of reckoning this vast problem whose bare outlines are given in the chart?

Is this to be the measure of our consecration? Is this the extent of our loyal devotion to the cause of our King? His place occupied by a usurper and His glory given to another, while the Church slumbered and slept; shall we not arise and win back the lost kingdom? **Missions to Moslems are the only Christian solution of the Eastern Question.** "Father, the hour has come, glorify thy Son." God wills it. Let our rallying cry be, Every stronghold of Islam for Christ! Not a war of gunboats or of diplomacy, but a Holy War with the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered. "FATHER, THE HOUR HAS COME, GLORIFY THY SON."

A Prayer for the Mohammedan World

O Lord God, to whom the sceptre of right belongeth, lift up Thyself, and travel in the greatness of Thy strength throughout the Mohammedan lands of the East; because of the anointing of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, as Thy true Prophet, Priest and King, destroy the sword of Islam, and break the yoke of the false prophet Mohammed from off the necks of Egypt, Arabia, Turkey, Persia, and other Moslem lands, that so there may be opened throughout these lands a great door and effectual for the Gospel, that the Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified, and the veil upon so many hearts may be removed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

—*C. M. S. Intelligencer*

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